

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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### Dr. Alana Welm, Ph. D



Alana L. Welm, Ph.D., is the Ralph E. and Willia T. Main Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, Associate Professor in the Department of Oncological Sciences, and Investigator at the Huntsman Comprehensive Cancer Institute, University of Utah.

Dr. Welm's research focuses on two major emphases centered on breast cancer metastases: better understanding the biology of metastasis in order to develop new therapies and creating innovative models of human breast cancer that more accurately reflect behavior of tumors and response to therapy.

Dr. Welm's Komen funding explores new approaches to stimulate the immune system to kill cancer (immunotherapy), specifically focusing on inhibiting activity that contributes to breast cancer metastasis.

## PRESENTERS

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### Michelle Weaver Knowles, MSN FNP-C, RNC, CBCN ONNCG



Michelle is an FNP with 30+ years of nursing experience in Women's Health. This includes newborn care, labor and delivery, breast navigation and genetic cancer risk assessment. She is a 20-year breast cancer survivor with a BRCA 1 hereditary mutation. Her primary care practice Ava Health includes general health care for men and women, breast navigation and genetic cancer risk assessment and management.

She has been honored as the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators 2012 Oncology Nurse Navigator of the Year, Oncology Nursing Society 2019 Certified Breast Care Nurse of the year, Myriad Genetics Provider Speaker. She is a sought-after public speaker on the topic of hereditary cancer. Her personal history and years as a nurse navigator inspire her as she cares for her patients.

Michelle serves on the Komen Idaho Montana Board of Directors.

### Jodi Weak, Executive Director, Susan G. Komen Idaho Montana



Jodi is the Executive Director of Susan G. Komen Idaho Montana. Having served as a volunteer and Board member for many years, Jodi joined the Komen Idaho Montana staff in 2013, becoming Executive Director in 2017.

Jodi is excited that Komen Idaho Montana is expanding their services to be more inclusive to those living with metastatic breast cancer.



## Judith L. Gustafson, APRN-FNP, ACHPN

Judy Gustafson is a graduate of Montana State University (BSN) and Gonzaga University (MSN). With over 25 years of experience, she recently completed a post graduate certificate in palliative care and currently works with the palliative care team at Providence St. Patrick Hospital seeing patients and their families in the inpatient, ambulatory and long term care settings.



## Donna Porte, FNP-BC

Donna Porte is a Nurse Practitioner specializing in Palliative Care. She currently works at Community Medical Center in Missoula and has worked in Palliative Care for over 8 years.

## Debra Rivey, BA, BSW, MSW, LCSW

Debra pursued her first passion as a graphic artist for many years and later in life returned to school to pursue her social work degrees. She has practiced as a medical social worker for 26 years working at Missoula Aging Services, Partners In Home Care Home Health/Hospice, and Community Medical Center as an inpatient social worker for 7 years and 10-1/2 years as the Oncology Social Worker at Community Cancer Care and Prevention. She developed the Psychosocial Support Services Program and provides counseling, care coordination and advance care planning.

Debra is currently a Board Member of the Hospice House for Missoula and the Palliative Care Advisory Council.



## Maria Iles, DPT CLT-LANA

Maria Iles graduated with her doctorate degree from the University of Montana School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences in 2010. She is passionate about learning and has pursued certifications and advanced training in pelvic health, lymphedema, and oncology rehabilitation and her practice largely evolves around these areas. She is active with local committees, providing community education and annual instruction to graduate students at the university.

## Glenn Blumenson, LCSW



Glenn Blumenson is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker practicing in Missoula, Montana. Glenn received his Master's in Social Work from NYU and has had advanced training in Couple and Family Therapy through the Ackerman Institute as well as the New York Center for Emotionally Focused Therapy. He spent 5 years working at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC and relocated to Missoula in 2018. Currently he is the counsellor at the Montana Cancer Center and has a private practice in downtown Missoula as well.

More info can be found at [www.fivevalleystherapy.com](http://www.fivevalleystherapy.com)

## Deanna Waller, BSN, RN, OCN



Deanna earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Montana State University in 1996 and became oncology certified in 1998. She spent 18 years as a chemotherapy infusion nurse in the outpatient setting and has taken care of patients with almost every cancer diagnosis, to include stem cell transplant. The past 4 years she was an Oncology Nurse Clinical Research Coordinator having accrued over 100 patients to National Cancer Institute clinical trials. In January of 2019, she accepted a position with Community Cancer Care and Prevention as the Breast/Gynecological Cancer- Oncology Nurse Navigator.

According to Deanna, "Being an oncology nurse has allowed me to meet and care for so many wonderful people throughout my career and it truly is my passion."

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

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